



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 2
290 BROADWAY
NEW YORK, NY 10007-1866

JUN 8 2005

Honorable James A. Garner, Mayor
Incorporated Village of Hempstead
Village Hall
99 Nichols Court
Hempstead, New York 11550

Dear Mayor Garner:

This is to inform you that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has determined that the proposed reconstruction of Wells No. 1R, 3, and 6 at the Clinton Street Water Plant in the Incorporated Village of Hempstead potable water supply system in Nassau County, New York is categorically excluded (CATEX) from substantive environmental review requirements, pursuant to 40 CFR Part 6. The project is being partially funded through a federal Special Appropriation Act grant (Grant No. XP982080-99).

This determination is based upon our review of the December 2003 Environmental Information Document (EID) for the Reconstruction of Wells No. 1R, 2, 3, and 6 plus the June 2004 "Information For Bidders Proposal Contract And Specifications for Wells No. 1R, 3 and 6 Reconstruction at Clinton Street Water Plant" document.

Please be reminded that EPA may revoke this CATEX if any of the following conditions occur:

- changes in the proposed action render it ineligible for exclusion;
- new evidence indicates that serious local or environmental issues exist; or
- federal, state, or local laws would be violated.

Should you have any questions regarding this decision, please address them to John Filippelli, Chief, Strategic Planning and Multi-Media Programs Branch, at the above address.

Sincerely,


Kathleen C. Callahan
Acting Regional Administrator

Enclosure

cc: J. Robert Holzmacher, P.E., Principal (w/enclosure)

ENCLOSURE

Incorporated Village of Hempstead Reconstruction of Wells 1R, 3, and 6 at Clinton Street Water Plant Nassau County, New York Special Appropriation Grant Project

Background

The Clinton Street Water Plant of the Incorporated Village of Hempstead contains wells No. 1R, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 8. These wells have been in service considerably longer than their generally expected life span. Consequently, their capacity and mechanical reliability have declined, while population and demand have grown in the Village. The construction of water storage capacity is impossible due to financial limitations. Thus, additional water supply in the form of wells is the desirable alternative.

Proposed Action

The proposed project at the Clinton Street water plant would reconstruct/replace three existing water supply wells in the Village of Hempstead potable water supply system. The existing capacity of wells No. 1R, 3, and 6 will be transferred to three new wells in the immediate area of the existing wells. The existing wells will be backfilled.

Alternatives Considered

In addition to the proposed action, the following alternatives were evaluated and rejected for the reasons outlined.

Alternative 1: No action - This was rejected because it does not comply with New York State Sanitary code requirements as the peak day demands cannot be met.

Alternative 2: Well Abandonment - This alternative depends on the existence of excess pumping capacity in other parts of the water system. Also, the water system requires twelve wells in order to meet its peak day flows plus its fire flows. Presently, the Village has nine of the required twelve wells, so abandonment of wells at the Clinton Street site is not feasible.

Alternative 3: Minimal Rehabilitation - This option considered the possibility of extending the service life of the existing wells by using chemical treatment on the well's screens. Knowing that some of these wells have been degraded past the point where the use of this option would be effective, this option will not achieve an appropriate supply of water for the Village of Hempstead. This alternative was not considered viable.

Alternative 4: Alternate Chemical Treatments - None of the alternate chemicals and agents would produce a permanent improvement or help to meet the requirements of the New York State Sanitary Code.

Alternative 5: Replacement with New Wells at Another Site - The Village of Hempstead has not been able to identify suitable new well sites. This option was considered unworkable.

Eligibility for Granting a Categorical Exclusion

The project meets the general Categorical Exclusion (CATEX) eligibility criteria found in 40 CFR 6.107(d)(1). The regulations allow CATEXs for activities involving “actions which are solely directed toward...functional replacement of equipment, or...construction of new ancillary facilities adjacent or appurtenant to existing facilities.”

Additionally, the available information on the proposed action indicates that the specific criteria for not granting a CATEX, found in 40 CFR 6.107(e), are not present. Specifically, the project will not result in a new or relocated discharge to surface or ground waters; will not increase the amount of pollutants discharged to receiving waters; nor will it provide capacity to serve a population significantly greater than the existing population. Furthermore, there will be no significant adverse effects on cultural resources, endangered or threatened species, environmentally sensitive areas, or other environmentally important natural resource areas.

Conclusion

The proposed action conforms to the category of actions eligible for exclusion under 40 CFR 6.107(d)(1). Accordingly, EPA approves this request for a CATEX from detailed environmental review pursuant to our procedures for implementing the National Environmental Policy Act.